Plain as A B C is a plot historical,
When I overhaul allusions allegorical 1
Shakespeare's not so bad; he'd have more pounds and pence in him,
If actors stood aside, and let me show the sense in him ! "

Louis Austin's little " Lyceum Play" was presented to me with a silver water-jug, a souvenir from the company, and ended up with the following pretty lines spoken by Katie Brown, a clever little girl who played all the small pages* parts at this time :

" Although I[f]m but a little page,
"Who waits for Portia's kind behest,
Mine is the part upon this stage
To tell the plot you have not guessed.

"Dear lady, oft in Belmont's hall.
Whose mistress is so sweet and fair,
Your humble slaves would gladly fall
Upon their knees, and praise you there.

" To offer you this little gift,
Dear Portia, now we crave your leave,
And let it have the grace to lift
Our hearts to yours this Christmas eve.

" And so we pray that you may live
Thro* many, many, happy years,
And feel what you so often give—
The joy that is akin to tears ! "

How nice of Louis Austin! It quite made up for my mortification over the camphor pudding!

wanton is a kind of—well, you know she ain't what she ought to be I"

Allen would then proceed to read the part of Claudio:

*'. . . not to knit my soul to an approved wanton."

Seven or eight times the supers clapped their " 'ands to their swords " without giving Allen satisfaction.

" No, no, no, that's not a bit like it, not a bit! If any of your sisters was 'ere and yon *eard me call 'er a ——, would yer stand gapin' at me as if this was a bloomin' tea party 1 "